Strike by the Employees of MTNL

997. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than forty thousand employees of the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited had been on idefinite strike from 15th May, 2001;

(b) if so, what had been their demands; and

(c) how far these had been, met to the satisfaction of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir. Only a notice was given.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transfer of Existing Telephone Number

998. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what criteria are adopted by the MTNL to transfer existing telephone number from one phase to the other;

(b) whether it is a fact that the MTNL is illfully practicing to transfer existing number to applied place;

(c) whether it is a fact that the MTNL has not shifted telephone No. 5511522 to the new place without any certain reason; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) In MTNL Delhi, the shifting of telephones is carried out subject to clearance of bills as well as area being technically feasible.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Telephone No. 5511522 has not been shifted to new address due to outstanding bills of Rs. 4391/- against this phone.

Violation of Tender Norms by DOT

999. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "DOT throws norms to winds to accommodate violations" which appeared in the Times of India dated the 11th July, 2001;

(b) if so, whether DOT has deliberately ignored gross violations of tender norms for the fourth cellular license by a private company which has caused a loss of Rs. 200 crore to Government.

(c) if so, the details in this regard; and

(d) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There have been no violation of the tender norms and no loss has been caused to the Government on account thereof. The Notice inviting Tender (NIT) for induction of additional cellular operators in various service areas in the country was floated on 9.3.2001. The pre-qualification bids received in response to NIT were opened on 29.6.2001. Pre-qualification bids were evaluated in accordance with the conditions prescribed in the tender document.

The eligibility criteria as contained in Clasue 5.1 (vi) of the Tender Document provided that "Any number of Indian Companies as well as foreign Companies may join together to promote the joint venture bidder company. However, an Indian company or a foreign company cannot be part of more than one such joint venture bidder company. The same Indian company in its sole capacity can bid either by itself or through its joint venture company."

While evaluating the pre-qualification bids it was found that two Reliance group companies namely, M/s. Reliable Internet Services Limited and Reliance Communications Private Limited had submitted